was ordered to cut Lee's railroad communications with Richmond, a task which was to a certain extent accomplished, although with no important results.[1]

There was also an expeditionary movement up the James River in May, 1864, made by General Butler at the head of about 35,000 troops. He landed at Bermuda Hundred, and, after one or two ineffectual and disastrous attempts to move upon Richmond, fortified his position, and awaited the arrival of the main army under Grant.

In regard to these expeditions under Dix and Butler, (as well as in regard to that under Grant in Tennessee), it must be remembered that the main Federal army was all the time confronting the main Confederate army. The idea of leaving the main Confederate army in front of Washington, and transporting the Army of the Potomac to the lower Chesapeake, was peculiar to General McClellan.

7. It ought perhaps to be said for General McClellan that the best season for taking the field in Northern Virginia had not arrived when he was compelled to make his decision. The roads are very bad in the month of March, everywhere in Virginia. This fact ultimately became known to the President and Cabinet, for we find Hooker deferring, without

complaint, the opening of the Chancellors villa campaign till the last week of April, 1863, and General Grant not crossing the Rapid an in 1864 until the 3d of May. But in 1862 the Administration aeem to have been utterly intolerant of the fact that the roads in Virginia were wholly unfit for the move-

[1] See 43 W. R., 17, 18.